

REMARKS:

Claims 45-64 are now pending. Independent claims are claims 45, 55 and 64.

In the Official Action dated March 3, 2009, the Examiner rejected claims 45-64 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, in particular, the language “said tapered front side and said tapered rear end are situated on said axis...”.

To clarify the invention, the Applicant added the term “and taper towards (said longitudinal axis)...”. In view of the above, the 112 rejection has been overcome and should be removed.

The Examiner also rejected claims 45-47 and 49-64 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herron et al (U.S. Patent No. D295,011) in view of Mosley (U.S. Patent No. D397,018).

In response to the rejection and in view of the interview, the Applicant has amended independent claims to show that the “said tapered end leading to a tip end which is situated on the outermost surface of said implement, said tip end is situated on and tapers towards said axis”.

Neither Herron nor Mosley shows a tip end situated on or tapering towards a longitudinal axis at the center of the body. In fact, both the tip ends in Herron and Mosley are not situated on a central axis and actually taper away from said axis.

The rejection based on dependent claim 48 has been rendered moot by the above amendments.

In view of the above, the Examiner’s 103(a) rejections have been overcome and should be removed.

In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan M. DeLaRosa', written over a horizontal line.

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